

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 PA-03 PRS-01 L-03 SS-15 RSC-01

DRC-01 /049 W

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P R 171123Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5872

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 6397

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE, IEA/L,  
IOP/G, IOR,M, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC

MEDIA REACTION

1. IN LAOS, EDITORIAL REACTION TO THE SIGNING SEPT 14 OF THE  
PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTING FEBRUARY AGREEMENT ON RESTORING PEACE AND  
RECONCILIATION IN LAOS WAS QUICK AND FAVORABLE.

2. THE OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE WROTE THAT "HOPE IS AGAIN IN THE  
HEARTS OF ALL LAOTIANS AND THEIR GRATITUDE GOES FIRST OF ALL  
TO THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THIS HISTORIC ACT - PRINCE SOUVANNA  
PHOUMA."

3. THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED: "IN THE CENTER OF THE DRAMA STILL  
BEING PLAYED IN INDOCHINA, THE KINGDOM OF LAOS ENTERS TODAY ON  
THE ROAD TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND TO PEACE. LET US HAIL  
ALL OF THOSE FROM ANY SIDE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE  
IMPOSSIBLE. THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY AND OF THE PEOPLE HAVE  
PREVAILED. IT IS NOW SIDE BY SIDE AND NOT FACT TO FACE THAT  
RESPONSIBLE MEN SHOULD WORK TOWARD PHYSICAL AND MORAL RE-  
CONSTRUCTION OF LAOS ... AND IN LINE WITH A SAYING USED BY PRINCE  
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SOUVANNA PHOUMA THAT THE VALUE OF AGREEMENTS LIES IN THEIR

APPLICATION."

4. THE RIGHTIST DAILY "SIENG SERI" HAILED THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL AS OPENING THE WAY TO PEACE "SO LONG DESIRED BY THE LAO PEOPLE." RECALLING DIFFICULTIES DURING THE LONG NEGOTIATIONS, THE PAPER ASSERTS THAT THE "TIME WAS NOT REALLY WASTED BECAUSE BOTH SIDES HAD A CHANCE TO COME TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER AND TO LEARN TO COOPERATE IN A MORE BALANCED FASHION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY AT PEACE." THE "SIENG SERI" EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY CALLING ON ALL LAO TO UNITE AND NOT TO LISTEN TO "SUBVERSIVE FOREIGN PROPAGANDA DAMAGING THE UNITY OF THE LAO AND THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF LAOS."

5. ANOTHER VIENTIANE DAILY, THE MODERATE "XAT LAO", NOTED THAT AFTER MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OF TALKS "THE NEGOTIATORS DECIDED TO RESPOND TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE LAO WHO WISHED THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND NATIONAL CONCORD WHICH WILL ALLOW THE COUNTRY TO DEVELOP HARMONIOUSLY AND THE PEOPLE TO LIVE BETTER."

6. THE PAPER REMARKED THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROTOCOL FEARING THAT ONE SIDE GETS ADVANTAGES AT THE COST OF THE OTHER. "WHAT IS ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER," STRESSED THE PAPER, "IS TO STRICTLY APPLY THE SIGNED ARTICLES WITHOUT MANEUVERING AS ALL MANEUVERS WOULD ONLY DELAY THE PEACE AND THROW THE COUNTRY BACK INTO MISERY."

7. "ON THIS SOLEMN OCCASION," CONTINUED "XAT LAO", "WE CALL ON LEADERS OF ALL SIDES AND ALL PERSUASIONS TO DISENGAGE THEMSELVES FROM ALL FOREIGN INFLUENCE AND TO FOLLOW A PURELY LAO POLICY. LET US REMEMBER THAT NO ONE IN THE WORLD COULD LOVE LAOS MORE THAN THE LAO AND NO ONE COULD WISH LAOS BETTER THAN THE LAO. IT IS TRUE THAT THE CONFLICT IN LAOS WAS BORN OUT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LAO WHO HAVE THUS OPENED THE WAY TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION. THE MORE WE KEEP KILLING EACH OTHER, THE MORE CHANCE FOR FOREIGNERS TO PUSH US DOWN. IT IS TIME NOW TO ERASE ALL ERRORS OF THE PAST AND WORK HAND IN HAND TO PULL US FROM UNDER THE FOREIGN YOKE AND TO AVOID IN THE FUTURE SUCH SITUATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DEMAND THAT FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHO INVADED LAOS CEASE ALL ACTIONS CONTRARY TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE LAO. LET US LAOTIANS RESOLVE OUR PROBLEMS. IF WE FAIL, WE MAY CALL

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FOR HELP," CONCLUDED "XAT LAO".  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ARMISTICE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** thigpegh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by thigpegh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE, IEA/L  
**TAGS:** PFOR, LA  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005